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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 000253

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TAGS: [PHUM](#) [IR](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTN'L: DUTCH-IRANIAN CITIZEN RISKS
EXECUTION

REF: THE HAGUE 194 AND PREVIOUS

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Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew J. Schofer; reasons 1.4 (b and d).

¶1. (C) Summary: Faleh al-Mansouri, a Dutch-Iranian citizen arrested during a May 2006 visit to Syria and extradited to Iran, remains in Iranian custody without Dutch consular access. The Dutch chapter of Amnesty International (AI) fears he may be executed in the near future. The GONL continues to follow the case closely. Al-Mansouri was, at the time of his arrest, head of an organization called the Ahwazi Liberation Organization (ALO) and an active member of AI Netherlands' Maastricht chapter. End summary.

Amnesty International: Other ALO members just executed

¶2. (SBU) Poloff met February 5 with Amal van Hees, Middle East and North Africa Coordinator, Amnesty International (AI) Dutch Section. Van Hees said that al-Mansouri had served as an Iranian army colonel in the Shah's day and had deserted in ¶1980. He had lived for a number of years in Iraq, until being resettled in Holland as a refugee in 1989. He had become active in the Maastricht (Netherlands) chapter of AI and had been instrumental in focusing attention on the problems of the Arab Ahwazi community in Iran. Al-Mansouri was, until his arrest, the leader of a group called the Ahwazi Liberation Organization (ALO), but van Hees said she knew very little about it.

¶3. (SBU) Van Hees said that she was in frequent contact with al-Mansouri's son, Adnan, who she said had spoken with his father by phone shortly after the December 7 visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Mottaki to the Netherlands. Prior to the visit, neither al-Mansouri's family nor the GONL had spoken to or had access to al-Mansouri. Van Hees said that AI did not view the telephone conversation as assurance that al-Mansouri would be treated well. She noted that Iran has executed other individuals within weeks of such conversations. She also said that two other ALO members have been executed in Iran in 2007. She did not give names.

4 (SBU) According to van Hees, UNHCR is aware of al-Mansouri's arrest and has been in touch with the GOI. Post has no independent confirmation of this.

Emigre politics within AI?

15. (SBU) Van Hees added that AI Netherlands had tried to enlist the support of the French and German sections of AI. The German section had declined, and van Hees explained that this was because of the influence of Iranian Shi'a emigres within AI Germany. Van Hees is herself a French citizen of Moroccan descent and, although seemingly objective on Mid-East events, was noticeably partisan regarding Sunni-Shi'a politics. She said she believed AI's French Section would assist, and thought the French government might be prepared to intercede with the GOI at some point.

GONL remains hopeful

16. (C) Political Counselor and Poloff met February 7 with Dutch DCM to Tehran, Roderick Wols, who was in The Hague for consultations (septel). Wols confirmed that the Dutch had still not been granted consular access to al-Mansouri, as the Iranian government refused to recognize al-Manouri's dual nationality. He said he knew very little about the ALO but noted that an organization advocating the liberation of a minority group was bound to touch a raw nerve in Iran. Forty percent of Iran is, he said, either non-Shia or non-Persian, and ethnic tensions are a concern. He also noted that al-Mansouri's residence in Baghdad during the Iraq-Iran war years does not help.

17. (C) Wols seemed hopeful that Foreign Minister Bot's December 7 meeting with Mottaki, in which al-Mansouri's case was raised, would have results. At a minimum, he said, the fact that the Iranians agreed to talk to the Dutch about the case was a step in the right direction. He noted al-Mansouri's phone call with his family as an encouraging step. Wols was careful, however, not to offer predictions

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about al-Mansouri's ultimate fate or its potential implications for Dutch-Iranian relations.
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